

The Impact of Science

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEMPORARY WAR. By Maj. Gen. G. I. Pokrovsky, Soviet Army. Translated and annotated by Raymond L. Garthoff. Praeger, \$4.

This is an interesting collection of the 1936-57 writings of a leading Russian nuclear physicist and missile expert who is regarded as the principal Soviet spokesman on space age military affairs.

Gen. Pokrovsky obviously sought to educate and influence the Russian elements whose views can affect the thinking of top U. S. S. R. leaders. His articulate exposition of the vital importance of science and technology to modern war almost certainly has played a major role in the revolution of U. S. S. R. military thinking that followed Stalin's death and which is of such importance to the West.

cans concerned over competing weapons systems and doctrines. He preaches that "one must neither underestimate nor overestimate the role of atomic and hydrogen weapons." Mass field armies, says this Russian military scientist, still are necessary for victory in war, and therefore conventional artillery, infantry weapons, tanks and aviation require continued development and attention.

THE IMPACT of science on the military is not confined to "hardware," the author stresses. Rather, the socio-political sciences must be applied to attain the "overall scientific technological superiority over the enemy necessary for victory."

While the book is liberally infused with Communist propaganda labelling Western military science as reactionary, most of the illustrations used are diagrams of new American weapons rather than their Soviet counterparts.

—JOHN G. NORRIS

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